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Port. Health

CITY OF ROCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

of the

City and Port of Rochester

1952

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CONTENTS

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A.	Statistical and Social conditions of the area	Page 7 to page 9
	Acreage	7
	Population	7
	Inhabited Houses and Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	7
	Births and Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	7
	Deaths and Death Rate	...	...	...	...	7
	Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	8
	Principal Certifiable Causes of Death	...	...	...	...	8
	Child Mortality and Neo Natal Mortality	...	...	...	...	8-9
	Distribution of Deaths in Wards	...	...	...	...	9
B.	General Provisions of Health Services in the area	...	...	...	...	9-11
	Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	...	9
	Laboratory Facilities	...	...	...	...	9
	Ambulance Service	...	...	...	...	9
	Nursing in the Home	...	...	...	...	9-10
	Clinics and Treatment Centres	...	...	...	...	10
	Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	11

C.	Prevalence and Control of Disease	Page 11 to page 15
	Table of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups	11
	Table of Notifiable Diseases in Wards	11
	Admissions to Hospital	12
	Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination	12
	Scabies Treatment	12
	Bug Infestation	12
	Rats and Mice Destruction Act	13
	Cancer Mortality according to age and site of tumor	13
	Cancer Treatment Facilities	13
	Tuberculosis. New Cases)	
	Deaths)	
	Treatment)	Page 13 to page 15
	Venereal Diseases. New Cases)	
	Treatment)	15
	Results of Treatment)	
	Atmospheric Pollution	16
D.	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	Page 17 to page 18
	Water Supplies	17
	Bacteriological and Chemical Examinations of Water	17
	Swimming Pool	17
	Drainage and Sewerage	17
	Public Cleansing	18
E.	Table of Causes of Death	Page 18 to page 19
F.	Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector	Page 20 to page 32
G.	Report of Medical Officer, Port of Rochester	Page 33 to page 39
i	Staff	33
ii	Shipping Entering Port	33
iii	Character of Trade of Port	33
	Countries with which the Port Trades	33
	Cargo and Passenger Traffic	33
iv	Inland Barge Traffic	34
v	Source of Water Supply	34
	1. For the Port and for Shipping	34
	2 Hydrants and Hose Pipes	34
	3 Water Boats and their conditions	34
vi	Port Health Regulations	34-35
vii.	Smallpox	35-36
viii	Venereal Disease	36
ix	Cases of Infectious Disease landed, or disposed of prior to arrival	36
x	Malaria	36
xi.	Plague	36
xii	Measures against Rodents on Ships, Quays, Wharves, etc	36
	To prevent passage of rats ashore	36
	Methods of Deratization	37
	Detection of Rat Prevalence	37
	Rat Proofing	37
	Rat Destruction on "Infected" or "Suspected" Ships	37
	Deratization Certificates	37
xiii.	Inspection of ships for nuisances	38
xiv.	Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934 and 1948	38
xv	Medical Inspection of Aliens	38
xvi.	Miscellaneous	38-39

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1952/53

Chairman - Councillor G.A. Tickner, . . .

Vice-Chairman - Councillor G.E. Washford.

The Mayor - Alderman A.A.J. Anderson, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor - Alderman E. Washford, J.P.

Aldermen A.C. Lyle, W. Longley, A.T.H. Ring, C.S. Knight, J.P., F.C. Burton.

Councillor W. Wilkinson
 Councillor H.R. Swain
 Councillor J.D. May
 Councillor H. Wilson
 Councillor C.H.R. Skipper, J.P., C.C.
 Councillor N.W. Wood
 Councillor R.M. Pattenden
 Councillor M.H. Cole
 Councillor Lt.-Col. H.S. Shave, O.B.E.
 Councillor F. Corry
 Councillor J.H. Bryden
 Councillor L.E.D. Darley
 Councillor S.H. Swayland
 Councillor Mrs. F. Gray
 Councillor L. Shuter
 Councillor I.J. Phillips
 Councillor J. Green
 Councillor F.N. Tessier
 Councillor Dr. W.S. Donaldson
 Councillor G.A. Page

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

J.O. MURRAY, M.D. (Edin.Univ.), Ch.B. (Edin.Univ.),
D.P.H. (Liverpool Univ.).

Joint Appointment, Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Chatham.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

R.G. BRENNEN, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

E.W. BARTON, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Sanitary Inspectors

A.H.W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.
J. HOGG, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.
R.S. LANE, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.
P. A. DRINKWATER, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.

Port Health Inspector

C.H.N. EVANS, C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., A.I.N.A.

Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time)

D.G. LEWIS, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerks

Miss V.F.M. JENKINS.
Mrs E. GWYER
Miss J. DEVINE
Miss M. EADES (Resigned 18.5.52)
Miss M. TAYLOR (Appointed 19.5.52)

July, 1953.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1952. In preparing a report on the health of the community it is necessary to review the social and environmental factors such as housing, sewerage, water supply and other services. Consequently a considerable amount of the information on such matters is provided by my colleagues in this and other departments to whom I wish to express my thanks for their co-operation

1. Houses and Population

The estimated 1952 population of the City is 44,550. In 1931 (Census) the population was 31,192.

13,470 houses were inhabited at the end of the year as compared with 7,415 in 1931, an indication of considerable industrial development. The average size of the household has decreased. In 1921 it was 4.17; in 1931 it fell to 3.72 and in 1952 to 3.3. The latter figure is slightly higher than that for England and Wales (3.19).

There are many slums to be abolished which means new houses have to be built. These two problems have been continually under consideration by the Local Authority and are of primary importance to the health of the City. A start was made to clear slum areas; Balls Square was subject to a Clearance Order and after a Local Public Enquiry was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Demolition Orders were made on 13 individual houses.

2. Births.

There were 696 Live Births and 17 Still Births. The corresponding figures in 1951 were 723 and 21. The Live and Still Birth Rates for the past 10 years are shown on page 8, during which period it will be seen that the Still Birth Rate varied between 18 and 28 per 1,000 Total Births.

There were 26 illegitimate births which is 3.6 per cent of the Total Live and Still Births. The percentage of such births in the five year period before War II was 3.3. It rose throughout the War reaching a peak of 6.6 per cent in 1945 and has gradually fallen, with annual fluctuations, to the present level.

3. Infantile Mortality and Still Births.

Seventeen babies died before reaching 1 year of age of which 7 died within one week of birth. Most of the deaths were attributed to Congenital Deformity (7) and Prematurity (3) which, together, resulted in 59 per cent of the Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 24.4 per 1,000 Live Births which is very slightly above the lowest recorded rate in the City of 24 in 1949.

In the last five years (1948 - 1952) the percentage of live born children who died before reaching one year of age was 3 per cent as compared to 5 per cent in the previous five year period and 9 per cent before World War I.

4. Infectious Disease.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS - INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

The year was unprecedented for the high prevalence of this disease.

The increase of this disease in recent years is a matter of some concern, nationally as well as locally.

The disease became notifiable in 1912 and the prevalence of the disease in

Rochester since then is shown in the following table.

	1912/17	1918/22	1923/27	1928/32	1933/37	1938/42	1943/48	1949	1950	1951	1952
Notifi- cations	3	4	2	0	0	1	10	10	2	3	15
Deaths	0	3	1	0	0	1,	2	1	0	0	1
	All in 1913	1 in 1918	1 in 1925			in 1938	7 in 1947				
		2 in 1919	1 in 1927				3 in 1948				
		1 in 1922									

This Table shows that there was a comparatively free period between 1928 and 1946 when there was only one case in 1938.

The view is held by many, that when an epidemic occurs in a district the infection becomes widespread, and that the great majority of the community become infected without showing any symptoms whatsoever, or suffer only from a feverish cold, and thereby acquire an immunity to the disease.

If this is the case, a probable reason for the disconcerting increase since 1947 is a general loss of acquired immunity among the inhabitants in the 19 years prior to 1946 during which period the district was free from Poliomyelitis apart from 1 case in 1938.

Whatever the reason for the increase one of the features of Poliomyelitis is that extensive local outbreaks do not occur, as a rule, in consecutive years which suggests a widespread latent immunization

There is no certainty as to how it spreads. It is caused by a Virus which can be recovered from the nose, throat and bowel of those infected. Personal contact seems to play a part. It has been found on flies which, presumably, picked up the Virus from infected faecal material or sewage, but there is no direct evidence that the disease has been spread by insects, food, water or sewage.

The attack rate in 1952 (15 cases) was 3.4 per 10,000 of the inhabitants. In heavy epidemics which have occurred in some districts in this Country the attack rate has been as high as 10 per 10,000.

The first notification was received in July followed by 9 2, 2 and 1 in the four ensuing months.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 142 notifications of Whooping Cough and 100 of Measles. Deaths caused by infectious disease were due to Pneumonia - 16, Tuberculosis - 10; Acute Poliomyelitis - 1 other infective conditions - 3; Total - 30.

5. Rochester Corporation Act, 1952.

This Act received the Royal Assent on 30th October, 1952. The Act alters and extends the boundaries of the City so as to include parts of the parishes of Cuxton and Cobham. The appointed day for the extension was the First day of April, 1953; about 270 acres will be added to the City

In addition to provisions with regard to streets, sanitation, building, finance, etc., there are clauses giving additional powers to deal with filthy or verminous premises and articles, nuisances and offensive trades, infectious diseases; food; and the registration of hairdressers and their establishments

6. Care of the Aged.

The Medway Homes for Old People, Balfour Road, Rochester, were opened for admissions on the 23rd July, 1952, by the Kent County Council. It is a very popular establishment and has greatly improved the available facilities for the aged. There

is accommodation for 69 males and 68 females.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the removal to suitable premises of aged persons in need of care and attention.

7. Sanitary Improvements.

The work of connecting all defective cesspool drainage to the main sewer has continued: 88 existing premises were so connected in 1952. Further particulars are shown on pages 19 and 20.

8. Atmospheric Pollution.

When the wind is in certain directions complaints are frequently received with regard to the dust from local and nearby Cement Works. The complaints are fully justified on aesthetic grounds but the atmospheric pollution from open coal fires causes more damage to health and yet is rarely the subject of complaint.

During the year a sub-committee of the Council met representatives of the factories concerned, and the Council have been assured of their full co-operation to reduce dust emission, by all practical means, to a minimum. Unfortunately, it appears that complete eradication of the nuisance is not possible with any of the preprecipitating plants at present on the market. Further meetings are to be held from time to time.

Monthly records of the atmospheric pollution are made in Rochester and Chatham at 3 collection stations (see page 16).

One of the analyses made in these records gives the atmospheric content of sulphur gases which under certain circumstances can be an irritant to the Respiratory passages. The chief source of these gases is from the coal domestic fire a contention which is supported by their marked increase in the winter months. The following table shows this and also the proportion of Respiratory Disease and Mortality during the periods when domestic coal consumption is at its highest.

	Total Sulphur Trioxide recordings for months Jan. Feb. March. Oct. Nov. Dec. 1952	Total Sulphur Trioxide recordings for the months April to September
Strood Records	5.52) Milligrammes) per day col-	(2.28 (
Rochester Records	5.64) lected by 100) c.m. Lead Per-) oxide.	(2.44 (
Notifications of Pneumonia	28	10
Deaths from Respiratory diseases excluding Tuber- culosis.	33	8

The satisfactory disposal of sewage and the purification of the water supplies has eliminated water borne enteric diseases such as Typhoid Fever. The task ahead is to rid the air of harmful impurities by attention not only to pollution from factory furnaces but, in particular, to that from domestic coal fires with the object of reducing the incidence of those diseases associated with the inhalation of contaminated air.

9. Annual Conference of the Association of Sea and Air Port Health Authorities of the British Isles.

This Conference was held in Rochester from the 11th to the 13th June, 1952. Eighty-seven Delegates attended; the proceedings of the Conference were under the Chairmanship of Councillor M. H. Cole, President of the Association for the year 1951/52 and Chairman of the Rochester Port Health Committee.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I am pleased to record the valuable help I have had during the year from all members of the Staff.

The work of the Department has been greatly assisted and supported by the consideration and guidance given by the Chairman and Members of the Committees. This is greatly appreciated and I wish to express my thanks for their co-operation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

A. STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) Land and Inland Water 4, 108

Population - Census

1951, 43899

Estimated R.G. (Mid. 1952) 44,550

Number of houses inhabited (end 1952) according to the Rate Books 13,470

Rateable Value... .. £310,204

Sum representing a penny rate... .. £1,192

Number of houses built during 1952 - Corporation 189)
Private Enterprise 64) 253

TOTAL BIRTHS. (Live and Still)

					Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births.	Legitimate	...	...	...	670	332	338)	696
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	26	14	12)	
Still Births.	Legitimate	...	...	...	17	11	6)	17
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-)

Birth Rate per 1,000 persons living 15.62

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 persons living 0.38

TOTAL DEATHS - All causes at all ages 465

Death Rate per 1,000 persons living 10.43

Deaths from Puerperal Causes Nil

Natural increase in population (excess Births over Deaths) 231

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Total Infant Deaths...	17
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	24.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	25.37
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (all ages)	-

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Deaths is shown on page 18.

The following Table shows a comparison between this district and other parts of England and Wales.

	Live Birth rate per 1,000 resi- dent population	Deaths per 1,000 population	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 registered live births
England and Wales	15.3	11.3	27.6
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)...	16.9	12.1	31.2
160 smaller Towns, (resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at Census 1951).	15.5	11.2	25.8
London	17.6	12.6	23.8
ROCHESTER	15.62	10.43	24.4

PRINCIPAL CERTIFIABLE CAUSES OF DEATH

		Percentage of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Circulatory system including Heart Disease and Cerebral Haemorrhage	221	47.5
Cancer	92	19.7
Respiratory Diseases -		
Pneumonia (all forms) 15)		
Bronchitis 25)	41	8.8
Others 1)		
Tuberculosis (all forms)	10	2.15
Deaths from all causes	465	

INFANTILE MORTALITY - BIRTH AND STILL BIRTH RATE

Deaths of children under 1 year of age per 1,000 births, and births per 1,000 persons living:-

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Infant Mortality...	46.4	75.6	47.0	36.2	60.6	27.6	23.2	35.06	40.1	24.4
Birth Rate	22.0	23.9	22.2	23.49	23.1	20.8	18.16	15.2	16.54	15.62
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still)	21.	18.	32.	20	24.	22.	23.	19.4	28.2	23.8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

Cause	Neo-Natal Deaths						Deaths over 4 weeks				
	Under 24 hrs.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total under 1 Year.
Premature Birth... ..	1	2				3					3
Injury at Birth... ..	1					1					1
Marasmus, Inanition... ..											
Congenital Deformity... ..	1	1	1			3	1	3			7
Pneumonia		1				1			2	1	4
Bronchitis											
Gastro-enteritis									1	1	2
Other causes											
Total	3	4	1			8	1	3	3	2	17

CHILD MORTALITY

	1950	1951	1952
Number of deaths of children aged 1 to 5 years	5	7	3

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Total Deaths under 1 month of age 8 (1951 - 19)
 Death Rate of children under 1 month of age per 1,000 births ... 11.4 (1951 - 24.3)

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS IN WARDS

St. Margaret's	80
St. Peter's	79
Troy Town	40
St. Nicholas	63
Strood	83
Temple	49
Frindsbury	71

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

There are 23 doctors resident in the area (excluding St. Bartholomew's Hospital) who are engaged in private practice.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following Table shows the number of specimens submitted to Kent County Laboratory, County Hall, Maidstone, for examination and results.

		Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs	Diphtheria Bacilli	-)	60	69
	Haemolytic Streptococci	9)		
Sputum	Tubercle Bacilli:-			
	Tuberculosis Officer	46	139	185
	General Practitioner	2	31	33
Fæces ? Dysentery, Typhoid Group, Food Poisoning, etc.		12	25	37
Food Stuffs. Food Poisoning		-	-	-
Ice Cream				100
Milk Bacteriological Examinations				180
Milk Biological Examinations				15
Water Bacteriological Examinations				88
Blood Counts				584
Miscellaneous Examinations				334
Swimming Bath Water Bacteriological Examinations				52

In addition a few specimens from medical practitioners were dealt with in the Pathological Department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

3. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Depot, King Edward Road, Rochester. Telephone Chatham 3540.

4. NURSING IN THE HOME

In addition to the nursing services provided by the Kent County Council, nursing in

the home is provided by the Watts's District Nursing Service, The Almshouses, Maidstone Road, Rochester. (Telephone Chatham 2335).

The number of patients visited during the year by Watts's Nurses was 50 and the total number of visits 13 702.

5 MIDWIFERY SERVICE

There are five County midwives and one independent midwife serving the Rochester area.

6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

District Office 13, Gun Lane, Strood. Telephone Chatham 7451.

7 HOSPITALS

St. William's Hospital Telephone Chatham 3243.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital Telephone Chatham 4278.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Situation	By whom provided
Ante Natal	Strood Institution on Thursday mornings.) "Elm House" New Road Avenue Chatham.) 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings.)	
Infant Welfare	St. Stephens Hall, Wallace Road, Rochester,) on Friday afternoons.) Strood Institution on Tuesday afternoons) and Friday mornings.) Belsey Hall, Rochester, on Tuesday after) noons.)	Kent County Council
Diphtheria Immunisation	Strood Institution I.W. Clinic on 2nd) Thursday in the month.) St. Stephen's Hall on 1st Tuesday morning) each month.) School Clinic Rochester on Tuesday after) noons.)	
Vaccination	St. Stephen's Hall on 1st Tuesday morning) each month.)	
Chest Clinic	13 New Road Rochester)	
Venereal Diseases	36 New Road Rochester.)	
Orthopaedic Radium) and X ray Ultra)		S.E. Metropolitan
Violet Light Ear)	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.)	Regional Hospital
Nose and Throat,)		Board
Ophthalmic Skin)		
Diseases Paediatrics)		

NURSING HOMES

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

There are two registered nursing homes, one with four maternity beds and one with nine maternity beds and nine beds for general cases. The Homes are visited regularly by the Medical Officer of Health.

The number of maternity cases admitted during the year was 180 of which 48 were Rochester residents. The number of general cases was 53 of which 17 were Rochester residents.

C. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) 1952.

	Total	Number of Cases in Age Groups					Total Notified in each Locality		No. removed to Hospital	Deaths
		0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65+	South	North		
Scarlet Fever ...	96	31	60	5	-	-	68	28	4	-
Pneumonia ...	38	8	9	10	5	6	27	11	-	16
Food Poisoning ...	7	2	2	3	-	-	1	6	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	142	72	67	2	1	-	112	30	2	-
Measles ...	100	33	64	2	1	-	91	9	-	-
Erysipelas...	16	-	1	6	6	3	4	12	-	-
ac. Poliomyelitis*	15	3	7	5	-	-	4	11	15	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	2	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Paratyphoid B. #	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	-
Total	419	150	211	36	13	9	311	108	26	17

* 2 non-paralytic

non-resident

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DIVIDED INTO WARDS

	Frinds- bury	Troy Town	St. Peter	St. Margaret	St. Nicholas	Strood	Temple
Food Poisoning ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Scarlet Fever ...	5	11	35	15	7	7	16
Pneumonia ...	2	3	9	11	4	2	7
Whooping Cough ...	8	11	51	41	9	9	13
Measles ...	1	4	81	4	2	2	6
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
ac. Poliomyelitis	2	-	4	-	-	2	7
Erysipelas...	4	-	-	3	1	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid B. #	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	22	29	184	75	23	25	61

non-resident

ST WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL

Table showing Numbers and Types of Admissions

	Rochester	Chatham	Other Authorities	Total
Scarlet Fever	3	4	2	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	7	-	8	15
Measles	-	1	2	3
Whooping Cough	2	2	3	7
Dysentery	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	1	1	2
Erysipelas	-	1	-	1
Others	7	14	24	45
Total	19	23	42	84

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the following cases have been protected against Diphtheria -

Under 5 years	438
5 - 14 years	68
Reinforcing dose	445

Total number of children immunised at any time up to 31 12 52. - 8236.

Year of Birth	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	597	691	568	619	709	641	668	764	524	598	560	506
				1950	1951	1952	Total					
				395	352	44	8236					

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following cases were vaccinated against smallpox during 1952 -

Age at 31/12/1952	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15+	Total
Number vaccinated	180	170	19	33	402
Number re vaccinated		6	13	57	76

SCABIES TREATMENT

The number of cases treated in the last five years are as follows

1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
4	3	2	12	56

BUG INFESTATION

59 infested houses were dealt with during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Total number of rats destroyed	994	1373	702	1203	1497	1546
Total number of mice destroyed	205	186	372	497	593	273

CANCER

Year	Deaths 1943 - 1952			Death rate per 1,000 persons living
	Male	Female	Total	
1943	26	28	54	1.3
1944	42	38	80	2.3
1945	33	25	58	1.6
1946	36	36	72	1.8
1947	32	31	63	1.6
1948	38	21	59	1.4
1949	36	46	82	1.9
1950	51	32	83	1.9
1951	54	29	83	1.9
1952	54	38	92	2.06

TREATMENT FACILITIES

Modern facilities are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, for the treatment of cancer. There is a plant for deep X-ray Therapy and 350 milligrams of radium are used at the Hospital.

CANCER MORTALITY ACCORDING TO AGE AND SITE

Site	1 - 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 - 45		45 - 65		65+		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	2	2	8	3
Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	5	1	9	2
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	7
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Other	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	13	9	22	12	37	24

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1952

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non		Pulmonary		Non	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15-20	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
25-35	6	5	1	1	1	-	-	-
35-45	5	4	1	-	1	-	-	-
45-55	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	-
55-65	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-
65+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	27	20	4	4	9	-	1	-

NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS WERE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS:-

	South		North	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5		4	9
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1		-	1
	Pulmonary T.B.		Non-Pulmonary T.B.	
	Notified		Notified	
Average for the preceding 5 years...	44	18.4	11	2 6
1952	47	9	8	1

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. S. Roy C. Price, the Chest Physician for this District -

Particulars of the patients from the Rochester District who were dealt with at the Rochester Chest Clinic during 1952 -

New Patients	Pulmonary				Non-pulmonary				Totals			
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Defined T.B.	29	17	3		2	3	4	4	31	20	7	4
Defined Non T.B.									127	183	64	66
									Totals	158	203	71 70

Total attendances - 1 510

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1952.

Bow Arrow Hospital Dartford...	15
Kettlewell Hospital	2
Lenham Sanatorium	3
Grosvenor Sanatorium	8
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital Margate	3
All Saints Hospital Chatham	5
London Chest Hospital	2
Preston Hall Nr Maidstone	6
Eversfield	2
Bevendean	3
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup	2
Grove Park, Lee	12
Fairlight Sanatorium	1
Papworth Settlement	1
Frimley	1
Brook Hospital	1
Harefield Sanatorium	1

Total 68

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1943 - 1952

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		
	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate	Notifications	Deaths	Death Rate
1943	24	25	0 6	9	8	0 2
1944	77	22	0 6	19	6	0 2
1945	51	35	1 0	15	3	0 08
1946	55	23	0 6	8	2	0 05
1947	34	21	0 52	15	2	0 05
1948	27	16	0 38	10	3	0 07
1949	56	30	0 7	10	4	0 09
1950	40	8	0 19	10	1	0 02
1951	63	17	0 39	10	3	0 068
1952	47	9	0 2	8	1	0 022

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

At the 31st December, 1952, there were 351 cases on the Register.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Sessions are held at the Special Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Mondays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on other days by appointment. This information is made known by means of posters and leaflets, through the Public and Port Health Departments, Doctors, Nurses and other Clinics.

The Clinic is conducted by C. D. Routh, Esq, M.D., and serves a considerable area.

The following information has been kindly supplied by Dr. C. D. Routh:-

NEW PATIENTS. ROCHESTER.	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	3	6	9
Chancroid	0	0	0
Gonorrhoea	1	2	3
Non-venereal	30	8	38
Total number of new patients from all districts served...			280
Attendances of Rochester patients ...			886
Total attendances of patients from all districts ...			4,052

NEW PATIENTS ATTENDING VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC
AND TOTAL ATTENDANCES FROM (a) ROCHESTER (b) ALL DISTRICTS

1935 - 1952

	1935-1939 Average No. per Annum	1940-1944 Average No. per Annum	1945-1949 Average No. per Annum	1950-1952 Average No. per Annum
1. New Patients				
(a) ROCHESTER				
Diagnosed Venereal Disease...	43	36	25	14
Diagnosed Non-venereal Disease	27	34	46	43
(b) ALL DISTRICTS	not available	426	385	291
2. Attendances				
(a) ROCHESTER PATIENTS	2641	1316	1057	904
(b) ALL DISTRICTS SERVED	not available	8481	6021	4383

DISCHARGES FROM ALL DISTRICTS COVERED.

Discharged cured -

Syphilis	26
Gonorrhoea	23
Non-venereal	200

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE.

Syphilis	4
Gonorrhoea	8

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT.

Syphilis	3
Gonorrhoea	0

1952 ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION OBSERVATIONS - ROCHESTER & CHATHAM

STROOD CEMETERY

MONTH	Rainfall during month Inches	Mean Rain fall	Prevailing Wind	Monthly Deposit in Tons per Square Mile										Milligrammes SO ₃ per 100 sq. centimetres Lead Peroxide
				Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	Water Insoluble Matter		Other Combustible matter	Water Soluble Matter				
							Soluble in Carbon Bisulphide	Ash		Calcium	Chlorides	Sulphates		
January	1.77	1.95	S to W	6.59	7.56	14.15	0.13	4.31	2.15	1.62	0.86	2.75	1.01	
February	0.99	1.0	W to N	5.10	7.80	12.89	0.10	3.98	1.03	1.62	0.40	2.92	0.99	
March	2.81	2.97	S to W	5.87	10.00	15.87	0.13	4.21	1.52	1.76	1.16	3.28	0.41	
April	.99	0.985	S to W	12.39	8.12	20.51	0.17	9.18	3.05	2.35	0.53	3.71	0.45	
May	.88	0.365	S	15.74	9.28	25.02	0.10	11.96	3.68	2.42	0.40	3.71	0.42	
June	1.25	1.457	S to W	10.21	6.03	16.24	0.23	7.89	2.09	1.79	0.36	2.39	0.35	
July	.69	0.75	S to W	8.22	5.30	13.52	0.13	5.73	2.35	1.23	0.50	1.86	0.30	
August	2.44	2.57	S to W	8.48	9.61	19.09	0.13	6.56	1.79	2.55	0.63	3.28	0.35	
September	3.43	3.455	S to W	6.53	8.72	15.24	0.13	5.00	1.39	2.02	0.83	2.85	0.41	
October	1.96	2.055	S to W	6.83	10.01	16.84	0.10	5.14	1.59	2.12	1.06	4.21	0.91	
November	4.57	4.525	N to E	6.73	12.46	19.19	0.10	5.17	1.46	2.42	1.52	4.71	1.39	
December	2.20	2.47	S to W	7.75	7.89	15.64	0.10	6.53	1.13	1.66	0.76	3.61	0.82	

ALL SAINTS HOSPITAL

January	2.13	1.95	S to W	4.74	7.79	13.69	0.10	3.65	0.99		1.69	0.89	2.92	1.38
February	1.01	1.0	W to N	8.48	9.15	17.63	0.20	6.13	2.15		1.96	0.40	2.88	1.16
March	3.13	2.97	S to W	8.62	10.27	18.89	0.26	6.33	2.02		1.82	1.73	2.98	0.58
April	0.98	0.985	S to W	6.50	4.51	11.0	0.20	4.51	1.79		1.52	0.36	1.76	0.51
May	1.07	0.365	S	7.46	5.47	12.92	0.10	5.04	2.32		0.93	0.17	1.13	0.33
June	1.66	1.457	S to W	6.53	5.17	11.80	0.17	4.67	1.79		1.23	0.36	1.56	0.30
July	0.81	0.75	S to W	6.40	4.41	10.80	0.10	4.18	2.12		0.99	0.40	1.23	0.37
August	2.70	2.57	S to W	5.24	7.62	12.69	0.13	4.28	1.66		1.86	0.63	2.62	0.29
September	3.48	3.455	S to W	6.83	9.41	16.24	0.17	4.54	2.12		1.82	0.89	2.55	0.66
October	2.15	2.055	S to W	5.00	7.46	12.46	0.10	3.31	1.59		1.39	0.83	3.08	1.07
November	4.48	4.525	N to E	7.82	13.26	21.08	0.17	5.00	2.65		3.02	1.72	4.28	1.47
December	2.75	2.47	S to W	5.06	5.90	11.96	0.13	4.11	1.82		1.36	0.55	2.72	1.02

FORT PITT SCHOOL

January	2.13	1.95	S to W	5.23	8.45	13.69	0.07	3.81	1.36		1.79	0.89	2.92	1.20
February	1.01	1.0	W to N	6.03	9.54	15.58	0.17	4.18	1.69		2.02	0.50	3.48	0.89
March	3.13	2.97	S to W	7.26	11.40	18.66	0.13	5.47	1.66		1.79	2.22	3.98	0.63
April	0.98	0.985	S to W	7.89	5.30	13.19	0.20	5.83	1.86		1.56	0.43	2.29	0.43
May	1.07	0.365	S	11.07	5.83	16.90	0.17	0.19	2.72		1.29	0.23	1.82	0.37
June	1.66	1.457	S to W	9.05	5.90	14.95	0.20	5.10	2.75		1.43	0.43	2.22	0.30
July	0.81	0.75	S to W	8.62	5.43	14.05	0.13	6.36	2.12		1.23	0.53	1.66	0.33
August	2.70	2.57	S to W	6.06	7.62	13.69	0.13	4.28	1.66		1.86	0.63	2.62	0.29
September	3.48	3.455	S to W	8.02	11.37	19.38	0.17	5.60	2.25		2.09	0.96	2.92	0.52
October	2.15	2.055	S to W	6.43	10.21	16.64	0.13	4.64	1.66		1.92	1.06	3.58	0.95
November	4.48	4.525	N to E	7.31	10.60	17.93	0.13	4.94	2.25		2.09	1.96	5.34	0.99
December	2.75	2.47	S to W	6.89	6.96	13.85	0.13	5.10	1.66		1.46	0.76	3.08	0.98

D. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

- (i) The Corporation Water Works for the supply of the Strood area on the North side of the River Medway. The source of this water supply is from wells in the chalk in Strood to which was added, in 1942, an additional supply from deep chalk wells in Cuxton.

The installation of the new borehole and high lift pump was completed and has been in operation since March, 1952.

- (ii) The Chatham and District Water Company supplies the rest of the City to the South. This supply is from wells in the chalk and greensand.

Both supplies are chlorinated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

	Rochester Corporation Supply	Chatham & District Supply	Total
Raw Water	18	-	18
Treated Water	15	21	36
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 54

In addition there were 4 chemical analyses of the Rochester Corporation raw water supply and 1 of the treated water.

216 samples of the water supply of Chatham and District were submitted by the Chatham and District Water Company for bacteriological examination and the results forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

The following is a copy of a Report on a chemical analysis of untreated water taken from the Rochester Corporation Supply on 24th September, 1952.

Total Solids	54.1
Chlorides	7.8
Free Chlorine	less than 0.01
Temporary hardness	27.9)
Permanent hardness	7.6)
Free and saline ammonia	0.0015
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0060
Nitrites	Nil
Nitrates	0.63
Smell	Nil
Sediment	Nil

The water is supplied direct to all houses.

SWIMMING POOL

During the bathing season the water in the swimming pool is frequently submitted for bacteriological examination. The pool is owned by the local Authority and the water is chlorinated and filtered continuously. During 1952 fifty-two samples were taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During 1952, 88 existing houses were connected to the sewer and the cesspools abolished.

At Priestfields 146 lineal yards of new 6" foul sewer were laid and 355 lineal yards at Horsted Way.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection and disposal is under the control of the City Surveyor. Refuse is collected once a week and, at the present time, is dealt with by controlled tipping on Temple Marsh. Salvage (paper) is collected once weekly.

E CAUSES OF DEATHS IN ROCHESTER

		M	F.
	All Causes	260	205
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	9	-
2.	Tuberculosis other	1	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	-	-
7.	Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	1
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	37	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2
16.	Diabetes	1	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	28
18.	Coronary disease, angina	48	19
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	3	6
20.	Other heart disease	41	42
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	5
22.	Influenza	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	9	6
24.	Bronchitis	13	12
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	8	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	6	3
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	21	22
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	2
34.	All other accidents	5	5
35.	Suicide	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
	Total	9	8
	Legitimate	9	8
	Illegitimate	-	-
Live Births			
	Total	346	350
	Legitimate	332	338
	Illegitimate	14	12
Stillbirths			
	Total	11	6
	Legitimate	11	6
	Illegitimate	-	-
POPULATION		44,550	

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

The arrangements for mortuary accommodation by the Corporations of Rochester and Chatham are by agreement with the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee.

The arrangements are that accommodation is provided by the Management Committee at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, and at All Saints' Hospital, Chatham, to either of which hospitals bodies may be sent by either Local Authority but, as a general rule, St. Bartholomew's is used for bodies found in Rochester and All Saints for bodies found in Chatham. These arrangements work very satisfactorily.

When a body is found in an advanced state of decomposition the necessary disinfection is carried out at the Chatham Corporation mortuary prior to removing the body to one or other of the hospital mortuaries. The Chatham mortuary is used solely for this purpose.

F. CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER.

Your Worship and Gentlemen

I beg to submit my fourteenth annual report on the sanitary inspection of the City.

COMPLAINTS

971 complaints were received in the Department during the year as compared with 1081 in 1951.

CLEARANCE AREA

Action was taken by the Council to declare Nos. 1, 3, 5 & 7 and 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 Ball's Square, Strood, together with 109a High Street, Strood, to be a Clearance Area.

Following the holding of a Public Enquiry the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed Ball's Square Clearance Area No. 3 Clearance Order, 1952 without modification.

DEMOLITION ORDERS

The following 12 houses were subjected to Demolition Orders under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, during the year:-

- 1. 2 3, 4, 5 6, 7 and 8 Butchers Court, Rochester
- 3 Gravel Walk, Rochester.
- 9 King Street, Rochester
- 6 and 8 Miles Place Rochester.

An undertaking under Section 11 (3) Housing Act, 1936 to keep closed until rendered fit for human habitation was accepted by the Council in relation to No. 38 John Street, Rochester.

DEMOLITIONS

7 houses under Housing Act Demolition Orders were demolished during the year:-

- 22 and 22a Gravel Walk, Rochester.
- 3 and 5 Gun Lane, Strood
- 99a High Street, Strood.
- 1 Miskin Cottages, North Street, Strood.
- 9 Victoria Street, Strood.

In addition the following 9 premises were demolished voluntarily by the owners before formal action under the Housing Act was applied:-

- 279 281 283, 285 287 289 and 291 High Street, Rochester.
- 2 houses known as Bell Court, Miles Place, Rochester.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Repairs and improvements to the total of 2,853 were affected under the Inspectors' direction and supervision throughout the year. The details of the various repairs, etc., carried out are given in the following list:-

Premises (existing) connected to foul water sewer	...	...	...	...	88
Drainage entirely reconstructed	...	...	...	33	
Drainage partly reconstructed	...	...	...	55	
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Defective inspection chambers and covers	...	...	...	...	13

Drains unstopped and cleansed	292
New ventilated soil pipes fixed... ..	3
New ventshafts fixed	8
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	1
Insufficient W.C. accommodation... ..	1
New W.C. apartments built	20
W.C.'s provided with pans and traps	31
Urinals constructed and improved	4
Flushing apparatus and water supply provided to W.C.'s	27
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	62
New sinks fixed	17
New lavatory basins and baths fixed	12
Trapped wastepipes fixed	29
Cesspools abolished	79
Water tests applied	168
Smoke tests applied	69

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses demolished:	
(Housing Act, 1936 - 7; Voluntarily demolished - 9)	16
Parts of buildings closed	0
Dangerous walls reconstructed and underpinned	4
Roofs repaired	178
Defective brickwork and pointing of brickwork repaired	147
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	95
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain	1
Damp walls remedied	256
Yard Paving repaved or repaired (Repaved 1)	
(Repaved 20)	21
Defective floors repaired	73
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	391
Dirty walls cleansed	51
Dirty ceilings cleansed	39
Defective stoves repaired or renewed... ..	63
Defective windows repaired (woodwork, glazing and sashcords)	236
Ventilation to rooms improved	8
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved	4
Handrails provided to staircases	6
Ventilated food stores provided or improved	8
Washing coppers provided or repaired... ..	21
Steam outlets provided in scullery wash-houses... ..	5
Sanitary dustbins provided... ..	152
Instances of overcrowding abated	17
Verminous rooms disinfested	147
Dirty houses cleansed (tenant's neglect)	14
Nuisances from animals abated	1
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	14
Miscellaneous defects remedied	173
Total	<u>2,853</u>

NOTICES SERVED

Informal notices issued (written and verbal)	827
Informal notices complied with	837
Statutory notices served	89
Statutory notices complied with:-	
(a) by owners or occupiers... ..	64
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	
or occupier	38

(includes notices served in 1951 and complied with in 1952).

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

2,259 loads were pumped from cesspools in the City as against 2,482 in 1951. Of the total number of loads pumped, 1,570 loads were taken from foul water cesspools.

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS

147 rooms in 59 houses (Corporation houses 25, Requisitioned houses 1, Privately owned houses 33) were subjected to disinfection treatment for the destruction of vermin. In all cases the premises were treated by thorough spraying with an insecticide incorporating D.D.T.

In addition to the foregoing, action was also taken, in co-operation with the Housing Manager, from whom a list of allocations for Council Houses is received each week, to inspect and treat the tenants' furniture before removal where vermin infestation is suspected.

During the year the furniture at 13 households was subjected to disinfection treatment before removal to the Council Houses concerned.

FOOD INSPECTION

2,508 visits were paid by the Inspectors to the various premises associated with the sale and production of food. Of this number 620 were visits to the Government Slaughterhouse in the City for the purpose of examining carcasses, etc. at the time of slaughter. The number of carcasses etc. examined during the year was 9,554 as compared with 9,633 in 1951.

The following tabulated statement indicates the kind of carcasses inspected and the number found upon inspection to be diseased or unsound.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1825	755	1686	5283	5
Number inspected	1825	755	1686	5283	5
<i>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	8	3	24	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	619	226	8	283	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	34.08	30.9	0.65	5.81	20.0
<i>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	10	3	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	151	239	10	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.65	32.98	0.77	0	0

The following table shows the number of carcasses, excluding pigs, inspected in Rochester, together with the percentages of the carcasses found to be affected with Tuberculosis and other diseases or conditions, during the two years prior to 1939 as compared with the figures for 1951/52.

	No. of Carcasses inspected				Percentage of the Carcasses inspected found to be affected with disease							
	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1951	Year 1952	Tuberculosis				Diseases other than Tuberculosis			
					Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1951	Year 1952	Year 1937	Year 1938	Year 1951	Year 1952
Cows...	6	9	785	755	55.5	11.1	36.30	32.98	0	11.1	31.46	30.9
Cattle excluding cows...	217	365	2074	1825	8.3	8.8	10.85	8.65	7.8	9.0	43.10	34.08
Calves...	88	101	2256	1686	0	0	0.53	0.77	4.5	1.98	0.44	0.65
Sheep and Lambs	8332	12984	4515	5283	0	0	0	0	2.8	2.88	5.22	5.81

The total amount of all foods found to be diseased or unsound during the year weighed 21 tons, 5 cwts., 0 qtrs., 6 lbs. This amount was made up as follows, and the details of the unfit food surrendered are shown below.

Diseased or Unsound Meat... 18 tons 7 cwts 3 qtrs. 17 lbs.
Other Foods ... 2 tons 17 cwts 0 qtrs. 17 lbs.

FOOD CONDEMNED

18 Carcasses and offals of cows ... 1 Pyaemia, 10 Generalised Tuberculosis, 4 Dropsy and Emaciation, 3 Septicaemia.

3 heifers ... Generalised Tuberculosis.

7 steers... 4 Generalised Tuberculosis, 1 Septicaemia, 1 Pyaemia, 1 Dropsy and Emaciation.

6 calves... 3 Generalised Tuberculosis, 2 Peritonitis, 1 Pyaemia.

24 sheep ... 14 Emaciation and Dropsy, 6 Fevered and Ill-bled, 3 Septicaemia, 1 Putrefaction.

12 forequarters of cows ... Tuberculosis.

3 steers ...

1 heifer ... Bruising.

640 bovine livers ... 137 Flukes, 121 Cavernous Angioma, 103 Multiple Abscesses, 45 Tuberculosis, 233 Cirrhosis, 1 Fatty Degeneration.

264 bovine heads and tongues ... 222 Tuberculosis, 40 Actinomycosis, 2 Abscesses.

323 bovine lungs ... 301 Tuberculosis, 2 Cystic, 5 Abscesses, 15 Parasitic.

1 ox kidney ... Nephritis.

3 ox hearts ... Pericarditis.

69 cows' udders ... Putrefaction.

46 bovine stomachs ... 39 Tuberculosis, 7 Johne's Disease

11 calf plucks ... 4 Parasitic, 7 Tuberculosis.

27 sheep plucks ... Parasitic.

233 livers ...

213 lbs. mutton ... 14 lbs. inflammation, 16 lbs. Abscesses, 91 lbs. Bruising, 92 lbs. Putrefaction.

7 calf livers ... 2 Abscesses, 3 Parasitic, 2 Tuberculosis.

1 pig's pluck ... Parasitic.

1067 lbs. forequarter beef ... 60 lbs. Bruising, 167 lbs. Cystic, 840 lbs. Tuberculosis.

69 lbs. hindquarters beef	...	...	...	33 lbs. Inflammation,	36 lbs. Bruising.	
145 lbs. beef (various)	...	...	...	40 lbs. Tuberculosis,	94 lbs. Bruising,	11
				lbs. Putrefaction.		
163 lbs. pork trimming	...	...	...	Putrefaction.		
17 tins Baby food	...	...	...	Unsound.		
26½ lbs. bacon	...	...	...	"
3 lbs. bananas	...	...	...	"
1 lb. butter	...	...	...	"
5 lbs. cake	...	...	...	"
114 packets cake mixture	...	...	...	"
25 lbs. cheese	...	...	...	"
10 tins chicken	...	...	...	"
6 lbs. corned beef	...	...	...	"
14 lbs. crab	...	...	...	"
140 lbs. fish (smoked)	...	...	...	"
813 lbs. fish (wet)	...	...	...	"
393 tins fish	...	...	...	"
1000 tins fish paste	...	...	...	"
1458 tins fruit	...	...	...	"
24 jars fruit	...	...	...	"
58 lbs. ground rice	...	...	...	"
524 lbs. ham (tinned)	...	...	...	"
1 lb. lard	...	...	...	"
35 jars lemonade crystals	...	...	...	"
142½ lbs. luncheon meat (tinned)	...	...	...	"
1½ lbs. margarine	...	...	...	"
428 tins meat	...	...	...	"
410 tins milk	...	...	...	"
61 lbs. mincemeat	...	...	...	"
2½ lbs. pease pudding	...	...	...	"
21 jars pickles	...	...	...	"
37 lbs. pork (tinned)	...	...	...	"
63 tins preserves	...	...	...	"
213 lbs. prunes	...	...	...	"
1 tin pudding (date sponge)	...	...	...	"
50 packets pudding mixture	...	...	...	"
82 lbs. rabbit	...	...	...	"
7 lbs. rice	...	...	...	"
30 jars salad cream	...	...	...	"
7 jars sandwich spread	...	...	...	"
15 bottles sauce	...	...	...	"
101½ lbs. sausages	...	...	...	"
412 tins soup	...	...	...	"
5½ lbs. stewed steak	...	...	...	"
133 tea cakes	...	...	...	"
33 lbs. veal (jellied)	...	...	...	"
881 tins vegetables	...	...	...	"
48 packets whipping compound	...	...	...	"

MILK

Since the 1st October, 1949 Local Authorities are now only concerned with the duties connected with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations which apply to dairies other than those at dairy farms, the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man and to the conveyance and distribution of milk in their areas.

The inspection and supervision of the methods of production of milk at dairy farms is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The issue of the necessary Dealers' Licences in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised & Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949 is still also the concern of the Local Authorities and Food and Drugs Authorities.

The following table indicates the number of retail dairies and the number of

distributors of milk in the City Area together with the various licences issued by the Rochester City Council under the Special Designation Regulations:-

Number of dairies (excluding dairy farms)	4
" registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilized milk only) with premises in the City Area	4
" registered distributors (excluding distributors of sterilized milk only) with premises outside the City Area)	7
" registered distributors of Sterilized Milk only (General shops. etc.)	55

Licences issued:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk - Dealers' Licences	10
Dealers' Supplementary Licences	4
Pasteurised Milk - Dealers' (Pasteurisers') Licences	3
Dealers' Licences	10
Dealers' Supplementary Licences	4
Sterilized Milk - Dealers' Licences	64

259 visits were paid to the retail dairies and premises selling sterilized milk in the City throughout the year for the purpose of routine inspection and the taking of milk samples.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Milk

The following samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination:-

Tuberculin Tested Milk. (Farm Bottled)	9
Non-designated Raw Milk	7

All the samples of the Tuberculin Tested Milk (Farm Bottled) proved, upon examination, to satisfy the prescribed tests under the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

In addition to the foregoing, 21 samples of milk were taken from local herds, from milk supplied to schools and from retailers' premises for examination as to the presence of Tubercle Bacillus in the milk

All samples showed negative results

223 samples of Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk from the 3 licensed dairies in the City area, and from supplies treated outside the area, were sent to the County Bacteriologist and Public Analyst during the year for subjection to the Phosphatase and/or Methylene Blue Tests, and the Turbidity Test in relation to Sterilized Milk. The results are given below:-

<i>Phosphatase Test</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Turbidity Test</i>
200 samples passed	161 samples passed	20 samples passed
0 samples failed	14 samples failed	0 samples failed

WATER

59 samples of drinking water and 52 of swimming bath water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the year. Fuller details in connection with the water supplies will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

ICE-CREAM

During the year 8 vendors were registered under the Rochester Corporation Act, 1936 for the storage and sale of ice-cream in the City Area. The total number of premises and/or vendors registered is 154

All supplies of ice cream sold in the City are, with one exception, manufactured in other areas.

At the small manufactory in Rochester the business is carried on in a very satisfactory manner and samples taken, both for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, have proved to be up to standard in all but one instance.

95 samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results of the same are as follows:

Grade I	... 55 samples
Grade II	... 17 samples
Grade III	... 14 samples
Grade IV	... 9 samples

In addition 56 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and the details relating to these are given on page 29.

OTHER SPECIMENS

The following specimens were also submitted to the County Bacteriologist for bacteriological examination during the year:

Ice Lollies.

Goat Cream

Liver, portion of muscle and bone structure and lymphatic glands of a heifer.

Inguinal gland of a bull.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING. 1952

201 samples of milk and other foods were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis during the year.

The details relating to the kinds of foods sampled, the results of the analyses made and the action taken with regard to the samples reported as being either inferior or adulterated are shown in the following tables:-

Article	No	Genuine	Adulterated or Deteriorated
Almonds Ground	1	1	-
Aspirin Tablets	1	1	-
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	1	-
Biscuits	1	1	-
Bread	2	-	2
Butter	9	9	-
Coffee & Chicory	2	2	-
Epsom Salts	1	1	-
Fish Paste	3	-	3
Fish (Tinned - Sardines)	1	-	1
Fish Cakes	1	1	-
Fruit (Tinned - Plums, Orange Segments, Pears & Greengages)	4	3	1
Glycerin	1	1	-
Ham (Canned)	1	-	1
Ice Cream	56	53	3
Iodine Tincture of	1	-	1
Jam (Gooseberry)	2	2	-
Lollipops	7	3	4
Milk	76	75	1
Mincemeat	1	1	-
Pork Sausages	10	4	6
Pork Sausage Meat	1	-	1
Potato Chips	3	3	-
Pudding, Sponge	1	1	-
Pudding, Xmas	1	1	-
Saccharin	2	2	-
Sago	1	1	-

Article	No.	Genuine	Adulterated or Deteriorated
Salad Cream	1	1	-
Sal Volatile	1	1	-
Sandwich Spread	1	1	-
Soup	2	2	-
Sweet Confectionery	1	-	1
Tomato Juice	1	-	1
Tomato Ketchup	1	1	-
Vinegar	1	1	-
Zinc Ointment	1	1	-
Totals ...	201	175	26

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
13	Pork Sausage Meat	25% deficient in meat content.	Informal sample of supplies to an Institution. Follow up formal samples found to be satisfactory.
14	Sweet Confectionery	Slightly rancid.	Remainder of stocks released for immediate consumption "free of points".
28	Pork Sausages	Slightly deficient in meat content.	Verbal warning to vendor and wholesalers.
30	Pork Sausages	Slightly deficient in meat content.	Verbal warning to vendor.
35	Pork Sausages	Slightly deficient in meat content.	Informal sample. Warning to vendor.
43	Plums	Can blown and contents contained 315 parts per million of tin.	Stocks surrendered for destruction.
59	Tomato Juice	Can showed internal corrosion and the juice content contained 250 parts per million of tin.	Informal sample. Remainder of stock disposed of before formal sample could be taken.
67	Ice-Cream	Deficient in milk solids other than fat.	Letter of warning to Manufacturers.
87	Ice-Cream	13% deficient in fat and 29% deficient in milk solids other than fat.	Informal sample - See remarks to sample No. 90.
90	Ice-Cream	30% deficient in milk solids other than fat.	Owing to the reduced standard for ice-cream which became operative within 3 days of taking of sample, proceedings were not instituted in this case. All facts were, however, recorded for reference in the event of further samples being found unsatisfactory.

Sample No		Result of Analysis	Action Taken
91	Bread (wrapped)	Bread tainted slightly.	Representation made to shop-keeper and manufacturers.
92	Sardines	Slight hydrogen swell of the tin.	Stocks surrendered for destruction.
108	Bread	Contained cigarette end.	Proceedings instituted and defendants fined £5 and £3. 3s. costs.
129	Lollipop	Incorrectly described.	Matter reported to Ministry of Food. Warning to vendor and manufacturer with regard to the use of labels calculated to mislead the public.
130	Lollipop	Incorrectly described.	Matter reported to Ministry of Food. Warning to vendor and manufacturer with regard to the use of labels calculated to mislead the public.
131	Lollipop	Incorrectly described	Matter reported to Ministry of Food. Warning to vendor and manufacturer with regard to the use of labels calculated to mislead the public.
132	Lollipop	Incorrectly described	Matter reported to Ministry of Food. Warning to vendor and manufacturer with regard to the use of labels calculated to mislead the public.
136	Cod Roe Spread	Can blown and contents contained 330 parts per million of tin.	Stocks surrendered for destruction
148	Tincture of Iodine	Contained slight excess of iodine.	Warning to vendor.
155	Canned Ham	Contents showed slight decomposition.	Remainder of stocks surrendered for destruction
184	Milk	5% deficient in fat.	Informal sample. Follow-up formal samples found to be satisfactory.
186	Pork Sausages	31% deficient in meat content.	Informal sample. See sample No 198.
189	Pork Sausages	Slightly deficient in meat content.	Informal sample. Warning to vendor.
190	Anchovy Paste	Slight hydrogen swell of the tin.	Stocks surrendered for destruction.
191	Cod Liver Roe Paste	Slight hydrogen swell of the tin.	Stocks surrendered for destruction.
198	Pork Sausages	Slightly deficient in meat content	Follow-up sample of No 186. Warning to vendor and manufacturers.

ICE-CREAM

The Ministry of Food, in order to avoid a reduction in the supply of ice-cream due to the shortage of milk powder and fats, found it necessary to modify the standard for this food which became law on the 1st March, 1951.

On the 7th July, 1952 the minimum fat content of ice-cream was, therefore, reduced from 5% to 4% and the minimum for milk solids other than fat reduced from 7½% to 5%.

There are two provisos to the reduced standard relating to ice-cream containing fruit and to "Parev" (Kosher Ice-Cream), the standard for the latter being not less than 8 per cent fat and not less than 14 per cent sugar.

The results of the analyses of 56 samples submitted to the Public Analyst during the year are as follows:-

FAT.

4-5%	5-6%	6-7%	7-8%	8-9%	9-10%	10-11%	11-12%	12-13%	13% and over	
1	1	1	3	10	16	8	6	3	7	Total: 56 samples

NON-FATTY SOLIDS

10-15%	15-20%	20-25%	25-30%	30-35%	35% and over	
0	0	41	14	1	0	Total: 56 samples

ICE-LOLLIES

During the summer season it was found that ice-lollies were exhibited for sale to the public under varying titles such as "real milk and ice-cream lollies", "cream lolly", "milk lolly" etc., which tended to suggest to the public that the lolly contained milk, cream or ice-cream contrary to the facts described by the Analyst.

Representations were made to the Ministry of Food on the matter and having regard to the absence of a prescribed standard for this commodity a communication was sent to all manufacturers and vendors drawing their attention to the labelling of their products in such a manner as to mislead the public.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings were instituted in two instances during the year:-

Case	Resolved
Ice-Cream deficient in milk solids other than fat (40% deficient).	Defendants (five brothers) each fined £2: 0: 0: and 5/- costs.
Bread containing cigarette end.	Defendants fined £5 and £3: 3: costs.

FACTORIES AND WORK-PLACES

321 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to the factories and workplaces in the City during the year. The number of defects found at the premises visited was 24.

I desire to record my appreciation for the help and co-operation given at all times by H.M. Factory Inspector and her Staff who are responsible for the welfare of the workers at factories where mechanical power is used.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	63	61	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	181	257	17	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	3	-	-
Total..	247	321	19	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	10	8	-	3	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	3	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	8	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	-	-	2	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	5	-	2	-
Total...	24	25*	-	9	-

*Includes defects remedied in 1952 following inspection and action in 1951.

3. OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(Making etc. Wearing (Apparel (Cleansing (& Washing	45	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	45	-	-	-	-	-

DISINFECTION

198 rooms were disinfected by formaldehyde fumigation after infectious disease, etc. This number includes 61 rooms disinfected after removal or deaths of cases of Tuberculosis.

36 loads of bedding were removed from premises for the purpose of steam disinfection or destruction, as against 33 in 1951.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no manufacturers or storers of rag flock in the City.

The number of firms of upholsterers in the area affected by the Act is 2 and these have been duly registered by the Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Number of Licences granted during the year to keep a Pet Shop 2

RODENT CONTROL

Total number of premises, lands, etc. inspected and treated during the year	264
Number of sewer manholes baited (test baiting and poison baiting)	282
Estimated number of rats killed (Ministry of Food formula)	541
Actual bodies recovered	994
MICE: Number of mice destroyed (Actual bodies recovered)	205

In addition to the rodent control operations carried out following complaints and routine inspections of premises, two maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out during the year. Of the 282 sewer manholes baited 42 revealed the presence of rats.

The necessary poison treatment was applied to the sewers in the areas found to be affected.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Primary Inspections (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	747
House-to-House Inspections (Clearance Area action)	83
Re-inspections	2295
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	1590
Caravans inspected	47
Visits to Factories and Work-places	321
Bakehouses	63
Slaughterhouses	620

Visits to Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
" " Food preparing premises (Canteens, etc)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	448
" " Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
" " Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
" " Other Food premises (shops, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	435
" " Stables and mews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
" " Cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	333
" " for food sampling and testing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	855
" " water sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Overcrowding investigations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Market Stalls inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	422
Shops Acts inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Atmospheric Pollution (Visits to gauge sites, etc)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Visits in connection with Rag Flock etc. Act. 1951...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Visits in connection with Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	717
Visits in connection with Rodent Control (primary and treatment, etc.)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1737
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1840
Total ...									<u>13389</u>

In conclusion I beg to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to Dr. Murray for the valued guidance and support I have always received.

To the Staff in the Department, who have always given of their best, I wish to record my sincere appreciation for their help.

I am also much indebted to my colleagues in the other Departments for their very ready co operation and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. W. BARTON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

G. PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1952.

I. Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
J. O. Murray	Port Medical Officer	11.6.1934	M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health - City of Rochester and Borough of Chatham.
R. G. Brennen	Deputy Port Medical Officer	17.3.1952	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health City of Rochester and Borough of Chatham.
C. H. N. Evans	Port Sanitary Inspector	1.7.1934	C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., A.I.N.A.	Assist. County M.O.

Medical Officer of Health, 1, The Esplanade, Rochester. Telephone. Chatham 3258.

II. Amount of Shipping Entering the District during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	236	198 629	8	196	None
Coastwise	622	262 442	1	479	None
Total	858	461,071	9	675	None

III. Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING 1952.

Number of Passengers INWARDS) Only passenger traffic in Port is day trips.
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS) during Summer to adjacent seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

Principal IMPORTS. Wood pulp, timber, china clay, coal, crude oil, flour, wheat, fertilizers, animal feeding stuffs.

Principal EXPORTS. Cement, plasterboard, bitumen, creosote, diesel and gas oil.

(c) PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Holmsund, Valvi, Kasko, Kotka, Kragero, Avendal, Oslo, Faeker, Hammelvik, Mankyluoto, Gothenburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Simdsvald, Quebec, Clarke City, Las Pedros, Indian Bay.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

Not applicable to this Port

V. Water Supply

1. (a) FOR THE PORT

There are two sources. The South side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company; the North side by the Strood Water Works which is the property of the Rochester Corporation.

(b) FOR SHIPPING.

The supply is from the same sources.

2. REPORTS OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION

21 samples of the Chatham and District Water Company supply, and 33 samples of the Strood Water Works supply were taken for bacteriological examination. In addition 5 samples of the Strood Water Works supply were taken for chemical analysis.

The results proved them to be good waters.

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES.

Hydrants from which ships are supplied are inspected from time to time. Those in use are in covered, self draining pits and the hydrants are capped. Persons responsible for watering ships are warned against contaminating hosepipes by allowing them to come in contact with river water. It is the usual practice to supply boiler water before filling drinking water tanks in order to ensure hoses being well flushed.

Samples from ships' tanks are taken for bacteriological examination; 17 were taken during 1952, of which 5 contained evidence of recent faecal contamination and the owners were informed accordingly.

From reports of bacteriological examinations, submitted by the owners, after cleaning and cement washing the tanks it would appear that at least one cause of a high bacterial count is the pipes connecting the tanks to the various taps.

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF WATER BOATS, AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE AUTHORITY.

There is one water boat operating on the River and this boat, which was fitted out on the lines suggested by the Port Health Department, carries the water in tanks capable of being lifted out of the boat.

The owners by arrangement notify the Port Health Department when opening up and cement washing the tanks so that they may be inspected before being closed down again.

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS

Before coming into the district of the Port of Rochester vessels must first enter at Sheerness, which is within the area of the Port of London Authority. They, therefore, enter on a Port of London Declaration of Health which specifies the following countries as being 'listed' for the purpose of the Declaration -

Ports in Asia including Japan
East Indies and Ceylon
Africa including Madagascar
The Canary Islands and
Cape Verde Islands
Turkey Black Sea Azores
South America Central America
Gulf of Mexico West Indies

Temporary additions to this list, owing to outbreaks in countries where "Convention" diseases are not endemic, are made known to the local Customs.

Vessels proceeding to Rochester, where full pratique has not been given at Sheerness, are allowed up on partial pratique and the Rochester Port Medical Officer is notified. The vessel is met on arrival by the Medical Officer, or his representative, and the vessel dealt with as circumstances require.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

There is no arrangement for radio messages direct to Rochester. Such message would be directed to the Port of London Health Authority and would be passed on as requisite.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

Where necessary, telephone messages are received from the Sheerness Boarding Station.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

The quarantine station is at Sheerness; other moorings are at Kethole Reach. The larger foreign trade ships discharge from six berths at buoys in the stream and can be isolated at these buoys if necessary. There are a number of berths, for smaller ships, in the stream.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR:

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox)

Disease	Hospital
Typhus Fever	St. Ann's General Hospital, St. Ann's Road, Tottenham, N. 15. Tel. Stamford Hill 1144.
Cholera) Yellow Fever) Plague)	Any local Infectious Disease Hospital (or E.M.S. Bed Service. Tel. Monarch 3000).
Others	Any local Infectious Disease Hospital.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

- (i) On ships - by the Port Sanitary Inspector and
- (ii) On shore - by the Public Health Department staff.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of

- (i) Ships - by the Port Staff;
- (ii) Persons - at St. William's Hospital, Rochester;
- (iii) Clothing, etc. - by arrangement with the Chatham Health Department for steam disinfection.

VII - Smallpox.

1. Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent:-

Long Reach Hospital, Dartford Tel. Dartford 3231.

2. Transport of smallpox cases to hospital.

This is provided by the London County Council Ambulance Service. Tel. Waterloo 3311.

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, London.

3. Consultants Available.

Dr. J.P. Marsden)
Dr. W.J. Coughlan) River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.
Dr. M. Mitman)

4. Laboratory Diagnosis Facilities.

Specimens of scabs, etc. may be sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Colindale Avenue, Colindale London, N.W.9 for diagnosis.

VIII - Venereal Disease.

Sessions are held at the Special Clinic, 36, New Road, Rochester, on Mondays from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on other days by appointment. This information is made known to seamen by means of notices, in English, Dutch, Norwegian and German, posted on the Pier which is principally used by seamen landing from ships.

Seamen, in general, are by now well aware of the international facilities for the treatment of venereal disease.

In-patient treatment is available at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich S.E. 10.

IX - Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian and North American Ports and malaria is not generally met with.

At one time Ground Nuts were imported from West Africa and some years ago malaria was at times, found on those vessels. Since the cessation of this particular trade, in 1948, malaria has been rarely met with in the Port of Rochester and there have been no cases during the year.

XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year.

XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign Ports

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS

As a routine Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificates are examined. Further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crews' quarters, etc. a general enquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board, some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are a good source of information. The trade in which the vessel has been engaged since her last Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificate was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp and pulp wood have little attraction for rats and vessels engaged constantly in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand, a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo, merits further investigation particularly if her rat certificate is some months old. Such cargoes, at present, do not arrive in this Port but occasionally large vessels, which have carried such cargoes, arrive empty to load cement.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS

There is no rodent operator permanently on Port work but, in cases where it is deemed necessary, the shore rodent operator is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATIZATION OF SHIPS

For the issue of International Deratization, or Deratization Exemption, Certificates an arrangement exists under Article 4 of the Regulations whereby the local Port Health Inspector carries out the inspection and forwards the report to the London Port Health Authority for issue of the certificate. If it should be necessary to derat a ship by fumigation, the firm employed would be that approved by the London Authority. In other cases of deratting poisons, traps, sulphur and varnish boards are the methods in use.

When inspecting a vessel for the issue of an International Sanitary Convention Certificate the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, holds and engine room to chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage, specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

(4) There are no vessels, other than naval vessels, built in this Port and measures concerning rat-proofing are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage on board vessels in service, and inspecting rat-proofing on the smaller vessels undergoing repair and refit in local repair yards.

A proportion of the rats caught in the vicinity of the river is sent, as a routine, for bacteriological examination.

During the year 11 black rats were submitted for bacteriological examination for plague - no B. Pestis was found

TABLE E.

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	00
Species not known	00
Sent for examination	00
Infected with Plague	00

TABLE F.

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	14	14

7 Deratting Certificates were also issued to British coastwise vessels making occasional trips to Continental Ports.

XIII - Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

TABLE G.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British Vessels 464	-	59	56 complied
Foreign Vessels 211	-	20	19 complied
River craft 197	-	15	14 complied

XIV - Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934 and 1948

Periwinkles only are taken from the River Medway. Collection of mussels, cockles and oysters is controlled by the Medway Shellfish Regulations, 1936, which require them to be relaid in approved waters or passed through a cleansing plant.

Mussels are not gathered owing to the expense involved in cleansing or relaying.

No cockles exist in numbers sufficient to be a commercial proposition.

Oysters are relaid at Brightlingsea or sent to the Brightlingsea Cleaning Plant for sterilization.

Sources of local supply of oysters and mussels are Whitstable and Billingsgate Market. No shellfish are imported from Overseas or British Ports.

XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

Rochester is not an approved Port for the landing of aliens.

XVI - Miscellaneous.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Any necessary precautionary measures are taken by the Port Medical Officer after which, burial would take place at one of the shore cemeteries or, if considered desirable, at the crematorium, Charing. Arrangements for the actual burial would, in the majority of cases, be made by the Shipping Agents. Under very exceptional circumstances burial would be arranged by the local Authority under the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50.

RIVER SAMPLES.

18 samples of river water were submitted for bacteriological examination which showed evidence of recent faecal contamination but no pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

CASES OF SICKNESS.

1 severed finger
1 tonsillitis
1 rheumatism

2 haemorrhoids
1 dental abscess
1 venereal disease
1 dislocated shoulder

FOOD INSPECTION.

Cargoes of flour, wheat, maize and barley totalling 117 were examined. The cargoes were in good condition with the exception of 12 tons of wheat damaged by bilge water; this was disposed of by the Salvage Division of the Ministry of Food.

MOSQUITOES.

Anti-mosquito measures have continued to be carried out on the local marshes under the direction of the Port Health Inspector. Numerous pools and collections of water have been treated where necessary and practicable. The spraying with D.D.T. has reduced the mosquito nuisance to negligible proportions.

PORT FISHERY.

The duties of the Port Fishery Officer, introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a war-time measure, are still being carried out by the Port Health Inspector.

Details of the duties are given in the Report for 1946.

